

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously amended) A system for controlling access to information items comprising:

- a) a storage subsystem containing definitions of customer groups, customer information including which customer group or groups to which each customer belongs, information item definitions including which customer group or groups with each information item associated, a set of group source keys, each group source key being associated with a different one of the customer groups, a set of group member keys, each group member being associated within a different one of said group source keys;
- b) an encryption subsystem for encrypting information items associated with a customer group using the group source key associated with the same group; and
- c) an authentication subsystem for allowing a customer access to a group member key once the customer has been authenticated as a member of the customer group with which the group member key is associated, thereby enabling the customer to use the group member key to decrypt item information previously encrypted using the associated group source key.

Claims 2-8 Cancelled

Claim 9 (newly added) A controlled access catalog in a computer readable memory for storing identification of catalog items accessible by members of authorized groups, said catalog containing:

- a) identification of an authorized group;
- b) identification of selected catalog items and group information for said authorized group, and a private key of said authorized group for encrypting said group information;
- c) a public key for said authorized group for decrypting encrypted group information, said public key corresponding respectively to said private key of said authorized group; and

- d) authentication means for granting access to said public key of said authorized group for decrypting said encrypted group information for members of said authorized group.

Claim 10 (newly added) A controlled access catalog in a computer readable memory for storing identification of catalog items accessible by members of authorized groups, said catalog containing:

- a) identification of said authorized groups;
- b) identification of selected catalog items and group information for each authorized group, and a private key of said each authorized group for encrypting said group information;
- c) a public key for each said authorized group for decrypting encrypted group information, each said public key corresponding respectively to a private key of each said authorized group and;
- d) authentication means for granting access to said public key of each said authorized group for respectively decrypting encrypted group information of each said authorized group for its members.

Claim 11 (newly added) The catalog of claim 9 wherein said authentication means is responsive to receiving member identification for granting access to said public key of said authorized group.

Claim 12 (newly added) The catalog of claim 9 wherein said group information includes group pricing.

Claim 13 (newly added) The catalog of claim 12 further comprising decryption means for decrypting encrypted group pricing using said public key when pricing information is requested by an authenticated member of said authorized group.

Claim 14 (newly added) The catalog of claim 13 further comprising identification of said members of said authorized group.

Claim 15 (newly added) The catalog of claim 14 further comprising:

- a) encryption means for encrypting said group pricing by using said private key; and
- b) access means for accessing said encrypted group pricing of said authorized group by said members, said access means being responsive to a member providing identification and authentication data for confirming authorization of said member to access said encrypted group pricing.

Claim 16 (newly added) A multinodal information-handling network including said catalog of claim 15 at a first node of said network.

Claim 17 (newly added) User interface means at a second node of said network of claim 16, said user interface means comprising:

- a) input means for accepting member input, including member identification and authentication data;
- b) communication means for sending said member input from said second node to said catalog over said network.

Claim 18 (newly added) The user interface means of claim 17 wherein said communication means is adapted to receive information output from said catalog including identification of catalog items and decrypted group pricing, and said interface means comprises presentation means to display, for a user, identification and pricing of said catalog items.

Claim 19 (newly added) The user interface of claim 17 wherein said presentation means is adapted to present to a user:

- a) an input screen having an input field for said user to enter a query including member identification and authentication data to be sent to said catalog by said communication means to request access to said catalog; and
- b) a user presentation screen to display information including decrypted pricing of

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

catalog items available to said user after access to said catalog has been communicated to said communication means.

Claim 20 (newly added) A method for managing a controlled access catalog in a computer readable memory for storing identification of catalog items accessible by members of authorized groups, comprising:

- a) storing identification of an authorized group;
- b) storing identification of selected catalog items and group information for said authorized group;
- c) encrypting said group information with a private key of said authorized group;
- d) storing a public key for said authorized group for decrypting encrypted group information, said public key corresponding to said private key of said authorized group; and
- e) authenticating and granting access to said public key of said authorized group for decrypting said encrypted group information for members of said authorized group.

Claim 21 (newly added) The method of claim 19 wherein the step of authenticating is responsive to receiving member identification, for granting access to said public key of said authorized group.

Claim 22 (newly added) The method of claim 19 wherein said group information includes group pricing.

Claim 23 (newly added) The method of claim 22 further comprising decrypting encrypted group pricing using said public key when pricing information is requested by an authenticated member of said authorized group.

Claim 24 (newly added) The method of claim 23 further comprising storing identification of said members of said authorized group.

Claim 25 (newly added) The method of claim 24 further comprising:

- a) encrypting said group pricing of an authorized group by using said private key of said authorized group; and
- b) providing access to said encrypted group pricing of said authorized group, responsive to a user providing identification and authentication data for confirming authorization of said member to access said encrypted group pricing.

Claim 26 (newly added) A program product having a computer-readable medium storing computer-readable program code for managing a controlled access catalog in a computer readable memory accessible by members of authorized groups, said program code comprising:

- a) computer-readable program code for causing said computer to store identification of an authorized group;
- b) computer-readable program code for causing said computer to store identification of selected catalog items and group information for said authorized group;
- c) computer-readable program code for causing said computer to encrypt said group information with a private key of said authorized group;
- d) computer-readable program code for causing said computer to store a public key for said authorized group for decrypting encrypted group information, said public key corresponding respectively to said private key of said authorized group; and
- e) computer-readable program code for causing said computer to authenticate and grant access to said public key of said authorized group for decrypting said encrypted group information for a member of said authorized group.

Claim 27 (newly added) The product of 26 wherein the computer-readable program code for causing said computer to authenticate is responsive to receiving member identification.

Claim 28 (newly added) The product claim 26 wherein said group information includes group pricing.

Claim 29 (newly added) The product of claim 28 further comprising computer-readable program code for causing said computer to decrypt encrypted group pricing using said public key when

pricing information is requested by an authenticated member of said authorized group.

Claim 30 (newly added) The product of claim 29 further comprising computer-readable program code for causing said computer to store identification of said members of said authorized group.

Claim 31 (newly added) The product of claim 30 further comprising computer-readable program code for causing said computer to access said encrypted group pricing of said authorized group by said members, responsive to a member providing identification and authentication data for confirming authorization of said member to access said encrypted group pricing.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY